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Michigan, where the author resides, but altogether inaccurate if reference be had to the common law. The author has obviously confused many statutory provisions with common law rules, without adverting to the distinction.

Most of the objectionable features observed may be removed by a second edition. The general idea of the author in issuing the work is most excellent. We believe there is need for just such a work, for use of those unfortunates who are trying to learn pleading by reading privately the weightier works of Stephen or Chitty.

MEMOIRS AND LETTERS OF JAMES KENT, LL. D., late Chancellor of the State of New York. By his great-grandson, William Kent, of the New York Bar. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1898.

The inner life of a great man has always an interest for us. It enables us to explore the secret sources of those qualities which have raised him above his fellows. The life of Chancellor Kent is no exception to the rule. His personality was exceptionally marked, and his private life and character, portrayed in this volume, present much to excite our interest and admiration. He would have been great, though he had never occupied public station or written a line of his famous commentaries.

The memoir is largely made up of letters, the biographer modestly keeping in the background. Those of our readers who found the brief autobiography recently published in these pages, in the form of a letter from Chancellor Kent to Thomas Washington, will hail with pleasure this opportunity to learn more of the great American jurist.

THE LAW OF NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS. Statutes, Cases, and Authorities. Edited by Ernest W. Huffcut, Professor of Law in Cornell University College of Law. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co., 1898. pp. 716. Law canvas, \$4.00 net; sheep, \$4.50 net.

This work is based upon the Negotiable Instruments Law, recently enacted in New York and several other States, including Virginia. The Act is printed in full, with brief annotations, accompanied by illustrative cases. The English Bills of Exchange Act is also presented in full. The selection of illustrative cases is excellent, and the editor's work seems to have been carefully done throughout. The Virginia practitioner who proposes to inform himself as to the scope and interpretation of the Negotiable Instruments Law, which will shortly go into effect in this State, will find the volume most helpful.

The binding in law canvas is strikingly handsome, and causes one to marvel that such binding has not long since taken the place of the short-lived sheep, which has nothing more to recommend it than precedent—a "binding precedent," if a pun be excusable.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE LAW. By Edwin H. Woodruff, Professor of Law in Cornell University College of Law. Baker, Voorhis & Company, New York. pp. 89; 12 mo.; cloth; \$1.00.

The purpose of this handsome little volume, as announced in the author's preface, is to bring together in concise form, such information as students need when just entering upon the study of the law.

There is little in the volume that is not familiar matter to lawyers, and yet much

necessary learning which the beginner finds in no text-book, and which he is usually left to pick up as best he may. The chapter on "How and Where to find the Law" is especially valuable to the student.

THE LAW OF WILLS. For Students. By Melville Madison Bigelow, Ph. D. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 1898. pp. xxxii, 398, 12mo. Cloth, \$2.50 *net*; sheep, \$3.00 *net*.

Prof. Bigelow has been a successful author and editor of several well-known treatises familiar to practitioners, but to our mind his greatest accomplishment has been along the more difficult lines of preparing text-books for students. He possesses, in an unusual degree, the faculty of saying much in small space, and with a directness and accuracy which render his books peculiarly valuable for students. The present volume contains a masterly exposition of the law of Wills, arranged according to a logical and scientific conception of the subject. Practitioners will find it a valuable addition to their shelves.

HURST & BROWN'S ANNOTATED DIGEST OF THE VIRGINIA REPORTS. Volume II. Pulaski City, Va.: Hurst & Company. 1898.

In comparing the second volume of this much-needed digest with the first, one is struck with the marked improvement in the character of the typography and the paper. Another material improvement is the use of black-letter head-lines to the paragraphs. The absence of these head-lines was a serious defect in the first volume.

The general plan of the second volume is similar to that of the first, which has already been reviewed in these pages by Prof. C. A. Graves.

A digest of the Virginia reports has been so long needed, and the editors and publishers of this have shown such commendable enterprise in issuing it, that were the result less satisfactory than it is, we should not be disposed to criticise it severely. As it is, we believe the editors deserve the thanks of the bench and bar of the State.

We take the liberty, rather in the spirit of caution than of criticism, to suggest that some of the titles are both unusual and needlessly minute, and that the plan of the digest is a wide departure from that of other well-known digests, to which the profession has become accustomed. For example, such subjects as "Admissions" and "Confessions" are ordinarily sought under the general title of "Evidence"; "Cross Bills," to which six pages are devoted, under "Equity Practice"; "Commissions" (8 pp.) would be looked for under "Personal Representatives" or "Trustees"; "Continuance" (30 pp.) under "Practice." Under the unusual title "Compensation" (18 pp.) are included compensation for deficiency in real estate sold, as well as numerous paragraphs dealing with questions of evidence and of practice, the construction of contracts for the sale of real estate, compensation for nursing a decedent, etc., few of which one would expect to find under this title. Under the title "Death" one is disappointed not to find digested the cases involving the law of actions for wrongful death. The result of this will be that one who is familiar with the ordinary digests will find it difficult to use this one until he has learned by long practice where he is most likely to discover the desired subject.

We think the paragraphs might be shortened to advantage, and kindred deci-